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THE SPECTATOR

First Block Party This Friday

by Rebecca Griffin '09
Senior Editor

The arrival of May to the Hill also brings the excitement of Hamilton's spring concert. This year's Block Party will take an alternative direction from past years and will feature a DJ performance complete with light show, strobes and smoke machines. The group Super Mash Bros will open for headliner Rjd2.

Due to the threat of thunderstorms on Friday, the Block Party will be taking place inside in the Tolles Pavilion [Annex] and will begin at 8 p.m. If the weather forecast changes, students will be able to enjoy an inflatable obstacle course, jousting and sumo suits while listening to a few campus bands and enjoying a barbecue supplied by Bon Appétit on Steuben field.

At 8 p.m., Super Mash Bros will begin a set of mash ups [songs made up of numerous song fragments mixed together], complete with a light show to create a dance party environment. The set will be followed by Rjd2 at 9 p.m., who will close out the Block Party with an hour long set of his own, featuring video screens to complement the music. Organizers have been working hard to ensure that, in spite of the concert's indoor location, the atmosphere and fun associated with the spring concert will not be lost.

Super Mash Bros, recommended to Campus Activities Board (CAB) by numerous Hamilton students, consists of DJs Nick Fenmore and Dick Fick, who combine favorite songs from the 90's with current rap hits. As reported in the March 5 issue of The Specta

see ***Rjd2 to Headline,*** *page 2*

PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

Student Takes Geoscience on Ice

by Kerry Q. Coughlin '11
News Writer

Professor of Geosciences Eugene Domack, accompanied by Mason Fried '10, led a group of researchers on an expedition to Antarctica over Hamilton's spring break.

The team came together to address the environmental changes in the shelf systems of Antarctica as part of the LARsen Ice Shelf System, Antarctica (LARISSA) campaign. Throughout the trip, the team lived on the U.S. Antarctic Program's research vessel, the *Lawrence M. Gould*. The expedition was made possible with funds from the National Science Foundation.

The goal of the trip was to establish three Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to "measure isostatic rebound," said Fried. The measurements from these units will be used to evaluate the effects of glacial systems on global water level increases.

During the trip, which lasted from March 20 to April 10, Fried and Domack experienced a vast array of Antarctic landscapes, such as volcanoes, and a variety of weather conditions, including storms that would sometimes prevent the vessel from making any forward progress. They also got to see Antarctic wildlife such as gentoo penguins and fur seals. Fried recalled a specific animal interaction, where there were "penguins paying homage to our GPS stations which we installed."

In the end, the team was able to successfully plant the three GPS units. One was placed on Duthier's Point, a recently deglaciated area which will allow for information on crustal elevation changes. They were also placed at Vernadsky base, on bedrock sculpted by glacial abrasion, and at Hugo Island.

The trip was part of Fried's continued research, some of which he presented to the American Geophysical Union in the fall, entitled "A Radial Pattern of Six Paleo Ice Streams Emanating from the Bruce Plateau Ice Dome, Antarctic Peninsula Ice Sheet: Constraints from Multibeam Bathymetry and GPS Rebound." As for Domack, this is one of the many annual trips he has taken to Antarctica with a Hamilton student. He has led more than 100 undergraduate students to Antarctica over the past 15 years, the first one in 1987.

The number of Hamilton students who go on each expedition varies depending on the objective of the trip. Some are more education-oriented than others, but all combine the Hamilton classroom, lab, and field into an educational experience—a "real marine expedition is undertaken," said Domack. "The science is funded, and then the students are fit to the science."

"This program couldn't be done without the cooperation of other faculty, who allow students to miss class time for this academic endeavor," said Domack.

To read the daily updates from the trip and to view photos, visit http://www.hamilton.edu/news/exp/Antarctica/2009/index.html.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MASON FRIED '10

Mason Fried '10 (left) and Professor Eugene Domack (right) in front of the Lawrence M. Gould research vessel. Fried and Domack lived on the boat for three weeks.

Faculty Endorses CEC, Social Code

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Editor

In a special meeting called to address issues of diversity on campus, the faculty overwhelmingly voted to pass a resolution aimed at improving the campus climate. Prompted by a group known as the "Concerned Students", who formed in response to the Delta Phi Mexican Night party held last month, the Academic Council drafted a five-part resolution and brought it before the faculty to vote on Tuesday, April 28.

The first section in the resolution called for Hamilton's administration to continue moving towards the building of a Cultural Education Center (CEC). The center's aim, the resolution stated, should be to "combine educational and social programs to promote mutual understanding among all members of the College community." An ad-hoc sub-committee will be created to explore possible curriculum changes. This will help to determine how students can more easily "study diverse cultures and experiences." These recommendations are expected by December 2009.

The second section commended Student Assembly for the work they have already put into possibly creating a Social Honor Code. However, faculty members seemed to agree that students should take the lead on writing and implementing the Code and wanted to offer help on a mainly advisory level.

The third section requests support from the president in rewriting the procedures of the Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Board. The goal of the College for the future, the resolution said, must be to "raise critical awareness of different forms of harassment and sexual misconduct… [providing] students with clear institutional support in painful personal circumstances." The resolution suggested that this task be completed by January of 2010.

The last two sections first call for the creation of an ombudsperson position to help deal with these concerns in the future. The ombudsperson will be a tenured faculty member who is not a part of the administration. Finally, the resolution calls for clear and specific protocols that students with complaints can utilize in the event that they feel threatened or offended. Faculty hope that this provision will be implemented before the 2009-2010 academic year.

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SA Update

Exploring a Change in Parking

by Ezra A. Rosenberg '10
News Editor
Student Assembly Representative

Director of Campus Safety Fran Manfredo attended the Student Assembly meeting on April 27 to discuss parking at Hamilton. Manfredo is attempting to revamp the parking system in response to a survey conducted by Professor Wu's Economic Statistics class. Manfredo began by addressing some frequently asked questions from the survey. Specifically, Campus Safety has no role in determining which tickets the Parking Appeals Board accepts or rejects, nor does it set the ticket prices. The cost of a ticket at Hamilton is comparable to those of other schools in New York.

Manfredo explained potential reforms to Hamilton's parking system. One option is to reorganize which parking lots on campus are for faculty and which are for students in order to increase the number of parking spots on the south side of campus. Moreover, Manfredo proposed eliminating specified lot assignments and instituting one student-parking sticker for all designated student lots, which would allow parking in all lots. A variation of this option is to divide student parking into the two sides of campus.

Student Assembly members asked a number of questions and ultimately could not agree on a solution for the parking problems. Contention rose over the practicality of making students search for parking in numerous lots if the one closest to their dormitory is filled. Another concern was that allowing students to park all over campus would increase driving and makes Hamilton less of a pedestrian campus. Furthermore, there was concern that allowing students to park anywhere would increase incidences of drunk driving because students would want to drive down the hill to Bundy Dining Hall parties.

Two agreements that Manfredo seemed happy to concede on were improving consistency, using discretion and opening up more lots to students. Manfredo responded to the fact that students have received tickets for parking in the Little Pub visitors lot and Milbank faculty lot on the weekends by saying "you've got to use some discretion once in a while" and said it might be possible to occasionally allow students to park in these locations, similar to how students can park in Dunham lot on weekends.

Another potential change would be allowing students to park for a few hours later in Dunham on Sundays.

Manfredo emphasized multiple times that all of the school's parking regulations can be found online on Campus Safety's webpage in an eight page word document.

Rjd2 to Headline Block Party

*from **First Block Party**, page 1*

tor, the duo's website describes their creative process as "taking all of your favorite hits from the '90s and combining them with today's chart-topping rap hits in ways scientifically proven to make you shake you're a**." The band released their first album, F*%k b*%tches. Get Euros. in the summer of 2008, and their Myspace page describes their sound as something like "Girl Talk's hot cousin."

Rjd2, whose real name is Ramble John Krohn, combines a number of samples along with his own original beats and vocals. His real breakthrough came in 2002, upon the release of his first solo album, *Deadringer*. The DJ's work generally falls within the underground hip-hop genre, though the artist takes pride in his variety of styles. According to the biography on his website, he has been called an "underground hip-hop super-producer" and a "virtuoso sample-based instrumental wizard," but his latest album, *The Third Hand*, "placates none who seek more of the same."

Though different than spring concerts in the past, Assistant Director of Student Activities Paul Ryan '02 is confident that "It's going to be a really fun show with a great party atmosphere."

Over 400 Participate in AIDS Hike for Life, Raise $34,000

by Kate Moore '12
News Writer

The 11th annual AIDS Hike for Life was a great success, marked by high turnout and high temperatures. 450 individuals trekked across campus to raise money and express support for the efforts of the AIDS Community Resources (ACR) of the Mohawk Valley. Last Sunday, April 26 at 11 a.m., the mass of runners and walkers began the 5K hosted by the College, presenting an inspiring spectacle of a unified force against AIDS.

"The AIDS Hike for Life was a really great opportunity, not only to raise awareness about this pandemic, but it also was a good opportunity for Hamilton to reach out to our community," said Amanda Barnes '12.

Several hundred people from the Hamilton Community and surrounding areas came to campus to support the AIDS cause. Runners and walkers followed a course through Root Glen across campus to the football field and back. At the end of the hike, participants were offered food, merchandise, and even massages. The event culminated with an awards ceremony.

In the end, the event was a success for ACR. ACR focuses specifically on youth AIDS prevention services and sponsors several related programs in the local community. Teams and individuals who participated in the hike were encouraged to raise funds in addition to the $25 registration fee.

All funds will stay local and directly benefit the Teen AIDS Task Force, LG-BTQ Youth Safety Projects, and Client Support Services of the ACR. As of Monday, April 27, participants had raised $34,000, and incoming funds are still being counted. After a total of $64,812 was met last year, the ACR set a goal of $75,000 for this year. A weak economy may have taken a toll on fundraising, but participation was as strong as ever. Several student groups and individuals participated in addition to a healthy showing from local organizations and families.

"I thought [the hike] was a great event all together. It was a lot of fun and for a great cause. I really enjoyed the walk, and the weather was fabulous. I'm really happy the Hamilton Gospel Choir was able to raise money for AIDS prevention," said Rachel D'Angio '11.

The Hamilton Community received much praise for hosting this important event. Participants commented on the beauty of the campus and the important and abundant involvement of young people. Raising awareness is certainly the most significant achievement of the day, and Hamilton played a key role in supporting the community in the fight for AIDS prevention.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIL MURTAUGH

450 participants gather to begin the 11th annual AIDS Hike for Life on Sunday, April 26. The event raises funds for AIDS prevention among youth in the Mohawk Valley.

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

The Trouble Inherent in the Community Building Meeting

Sometimes a great deal of focus on inclusion leads to exclusion, even if by mere accident. In an effort to bring light to recent social tensions, Acting President Urgo sent out an all-campus e-mail last Thursday addressing the logistics of an upcoming campus event organized by a group known as Interfaith Works. The e-mail emphasized the importance of an "inclusive community" and asserted that in order to maintain a sense of unity and perceptiveness on campus, an "open dialogue" is necessary.

While we feel that the aim of this forum is noble, certain elements of the way the administration plans to conduct this event seem hypocritical. Our campus strives for a more tolerant and culturally aware atmosphere, and the opportunity to discuss recent concerns is certainly a welcome one. On the other hand, we feel that important issues should not be masked by unproductive attempts to find a solution.

There is a conspicuous fault with this event – the campus refuses to acknowledge that, for the most part, the people who are going to come to this meeting are the people who have been most fervently devoted to this issue since the beginning. We believe that the "open dialogue" the campus is trying to promote may not really be that "open." As always, the people who need to hear these messages the most will probably not show up.

In addition, the survey asks applicants to identify their ethnicity or religion so that small-group discussions are as diverse as possible. Unless Hamilton stops preoccupying itself with maintaining a "balance" between races in these discussions, the feeling of acceptance that should permeate the campus will instead remain in an exclusive, tight-knit circle. Furthermore, forced diversity enhances feelings of isolation and induces in participants an attitude that is unnatural and strained. Finally, the survey suggests that students list organizations and clubs to which they belong – another indication that the administration is trying to over-analyze the way this campus functions socially.

Hamilton needs to address issues like diversity on a much grander scale. This means that dialogue should not be limited to those people who are outspoken activists to begin with. It means that the administration needs to encourage the interchange of ideas even amongst those who are currently indifferent to the situation at hand. There is no easy solution to this problem. We still believe, however, that it is important to acknowledge these limitations.

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OPINION

Balancing Traditions and the Safety of Students

by Sam Gomez '10
OPINION WRITER

So, it's the last day of classes before the bi-annual hell that is finals week. You're looking to unwind and have a good time in sort of a final hurrah before you finish up tests and head home for the summer job or internship. It's a beautiful 75 degrees outside, so you ask yourself "what should I do today?"

The answer: it's Class and Charter Day, so you have an excuse to start drinking at 10 a.m. and black out by 6 p.m. But at what point in Hamilton's history did students start getting wasted on the last day of classes? Since when has it been okay for some drunken bro to crack a brew in the back of your Economics class at 11 in the morning?

Every school has social traditions. Hamilton has some great ones: the Citrus Bowl, Clinton FallFest, FebFest, Class and Charter Day and the notorious annual themed parties. It seems like the trend (especially in some Greek organizations) is that each year party and event organizers attempt to top last year's festivities. Whether that means more music, more decorations, more activities or simply more alcohol depends on the organization and the participants they hope to attract. While this has definitely led to some awesome rippers in the last couple of years, there is also another, more dangerous side to this issue.

Undoubtedly, you all know what I am alluding to. The annual G-Road festivities that take place on Class and Charter Day have grown in popularity and proportion over the last couple of years. Unfortunately, now the party is beginning to attract some unwelcome attention from the administration and faculty who happen to live near the disaster zone that is G-Road every year. Every student who has participated in these festivities knows why they are objectionable, so I don't believe it's necessary to list everything that occurs in these lines. The overriding issue is: how far are students (and administration for that matter) willing to go in the name of tradition?

If you ask a current Hamilton student why they would go to a G-Road lawn ripper this year, they would likely respond with something like, "well I do it every year," or simply, "'cuz that's what you do on Class and Charter Day." However, according to Nancy Thompson, this party has only been happening for about the last five years. The craziness and debauchery that takes place at this most epic of parties is certainly justified in most students' minds as simple tradition. However, the administration and some faculty members apparently disagree. The justification for the cancellation of the G-Road C&C Day party given by the administration seems valid. I mean, after all, it is sort of right next to HamTrek, a triathalon, and it is true that some students end up relieving themselves on professor's lawns every year. But most students are still displeased with the edict. It seems unfair that the administration is arbitrarily cancelling the most important and all-inclusive party of the year when so many other events during the year cross the line between fun and danger. After all, why is the G-Road party so bad in their eyes? Because it's outside in the sun, and not in some huge dark room where you can't hear your buddy next to you in the beer line? It's actually that since it doesn't take place in a social space with social hosts so there is no one group who is responsible for providing alcohol. Evidently, that's a big problem for Campus Safety at a school where the only requirement for getting served at an event is you "bring proper ID" – a.k.a. your face and a sloppy signature.

> **"While this program is well-intentioned, it is doomed to failure. Students will still get blasted on Class and Charter Day, except this year they'll be spread out, roaming all over campus."**

Personally, I applaud Nancy Thompson in particular for her motherly, caring insistence on looking out for the well-being of the entire Hamilton community by not allowing a G-Road Class and Charter Day. I also applaud the student members of the Alcohol Coalition for their (last minute) organization of an activity to effectively split the campus into three groups; those who enjoy a 6'4" naked man covering popular rock songs, those who enjoy Grateful Dead meets Sublime meets James Brown jam-style entertainment, and those who would prefer the more hip-hop styled sounds of bassist Andrew Root's DownBeat Keys. In this they hope to divide and conquer. Because we all know it's true that Hamilton students only drink to excess in large groups, never in small rooms. If the groups are smaller, that is spread at three opposite sides of campus, then it'll be more controllable, right?

Wrong! While this program is well-intentioned, it is doomed to failure. Students will still get blasted on Class and Charter Day except this year they'll be spread out roaming all over the campus instead of in one contained spot. There will be more trouble and more points assigned.

There's obviously no way you could get away with having an open brew at one of the venues on Class and Charter Day. I wonder, will Campus Safety be giving out points for Nalgenes of "juice" at these concerts? There is a high likelihood that the answer is yes.

I have an alternate solution. While it is doubtful that this is timely enough recommendation to be implemented, it may provide a framework after the failure of the attempt at containment of this year's Class and Charter Day. Tradition is tradition. Whether you've been practicing a certain one for one year or fifty makes little difference. But that doesn't mean that you have to be irresponsible about being traditional. We all know what happens when traditions get out of control (like the genius who threw the lobster at the Citrus Bowl). We, as a student body, must somehow convince the administration that we, as (somewhat) responsible adults, are capable of having an outdoor end-of-year celebration without anyone dying or getting arrested.

Therefore, I suggest that if not a single student is transported to the hospital this Class and Charter Day, the administration will allow a G-Road (or alternate outdoor) party next year. I believe that if partying is going to happen, it should be out in the open and supervised by attendees who are not drinking. There is no reason why G-Road cannot be such a venue in the future.

Class and Charter Day is a day of celebration and voluminous consumption of alcohol; nothing will change that. If students want to have an outdoor celebration in the style of the past few years at G-Road let them, or else they will simply drink to excess in their suites and rooms. I simply suggest that students consume in a responsible matter and that administration and Campus Safety arrange for safety precautions and other necessities – like porta-potties. A simple bit of planning could turn this out-of-control celebration into a time-honored, respected, and responsible tradition in the Hamilton community for years to come.

Thumbs up	Thumbs down	Who cares?
Sun, beer, and '90s gear.	Clinton weather decides to turn up the heat. In a confused attempt to bring the experience indoors, Burke library follows suit.	The Young Socialist wrote something. Awesome.
Skirt season begins right in time for my sweatpants and Viagra party.	If you're going to throw down a slip 'n slide, make sure you clear the broken glass from the landing, otherwise backyard parties turn into scenes from Saw III.	Swine Flu threatens to spread to Hamilton, wiping out weaker, sickly students. Sorry, Juggling Club.
North Korean Human Rights presentation: I almost had to call the UN in to mediate between my large intestine and the Minar I ate.	DU takes 7 connecting suites in Milbank: Turning the 'bank into a full-service meat market.	Knit Happens needles and hooks left unreturned? Tough knit.
G*n and Juice: My vomit puked that night.	Last two weeks of classes: I haven't checked out completely, but my Brickbreaker score is a lot better.	Donating furniture to the Womyn's Center: You're hesitant because you know it's going to get scratched up by all those cats.
Using the library scanner: Free. Using the library color printer: Free. Scamming DKE out of $200: Priceless.		Super Mash Bros and RJD2 bring "live" music to Hamilton, which is impressive if you don't know how to bring speakers outside and plug an iPod into them.

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09 & Matt Fellows '09

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

From the Mailbag

To the Editor:

I wish to reply to the comment made in the April 9th issue of the Spectator, wondering why the Womyn's Center was so involved in "fighting the immigration issue." The "immigration issue" doesn't exist in a bubble, completely separate from "women's issues," whatever those vague terms mean. In fact (here's a shocker) many immigrants are women – and the percentage that are women are increasing. Even without considering this fact, however, the Womyn's Center constitution states: "We encourage exploration of the intersection of gender, race, sexual orientation, class, and other characteristics as they are incorporated into societal structures that maintain hierarchical injustices." The experience of immigrants in the US certainly qualifies as an issue the Womyn's Center should be concerned about. Issues don't exist in bubbles, and it's time that we stop thinking about sexism as an issue for the Womyn's Center, heterosexism/homophobia as an issue for Rainbow Alliance, etc. These are issues that we all must tackle.

Where was the Womyn's Center for all of those invitations? My question is: why is the Womyn's Center the only group called upon to respond; where was everyone else in the community? Perhaps instead of asking where the Womyn's Center was, we should instead think about the intentions of those who host parties with sexist themes. *In The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir quotes Sartre and adds her own analysis: "'anti-Semitism is not a Jewish problem, it is our problem,' so too has the woman problem always been a problem for men." If we want a more respectful community, then all members have the responsibility to call out perceived acts of intolerance – and to educate themselves in order that such acts, whether driven by ignorance, bigotry, or both, don't happen in the future.

Amy Tannenbaum '10

Letters to the Editor

Kirkland Quote Should Not Take Away from Message To Seniors

To the Editor:

I've recently learned that at least one member of Thursday night's audience at the Senior Gift Semi-Formal Dinner took deep offense at a quote from the Reverend Samuel Kirkland I included in my speech. I sincerely wish this were not the case and empathize with this person's sincere concern. I used Kirkland's words to dramatically emphasize the power that is latent in a Hamilton education. A Hamilton education provides the potential to those who possess one to make the world better and thereby create a valuable and lasting legacy.

The quote I referenced was taken from Kirkland's "The Plan for Education." It went, "...the difference between one nation and another is not so much owing to nature as to education. We have every reason to believe that the present inhabitants of the United States owe all of their superiority to natives of the wilderness to the cultivation of their minds in the civil and polite arts."

For the sake of brevity I did not include the lines that directly preceded the quote which help to provide further context for Kirkland's words. "For I cannot yet admit the idea ... that there is a repugnancy in the very frame and constitution of their minds to intellectual improvements and the arts of civilized life. After more than twenty years of observations, I am not able to discover any other repugnancy in the Indian mind to civilization, than what arise from the mere force of an Indian or pagan education. That they want capacity cannot be urged, for they discover in many things great ingenuity and addresses; and some marks of original genius are found among them. That they have such a viciousness and depravity of disposition as forbids their civilization, is not true; for their ideas of right and wrong in many cases, if known would do them honor ..."

I am proud that Samuel Kirkland was instrumental in the founding of our College. That fact that he had noble intentions did not prompt me to sanitize what is known to be historically true. I did not and do not absolve him of what is biased and flawed in his worldview. For instance, his references to "pagans" reveals, at best, theological jingoism and the Northern European sense of religious and cultural primacy that simultaneously informs and undermines his sense of "superiority."

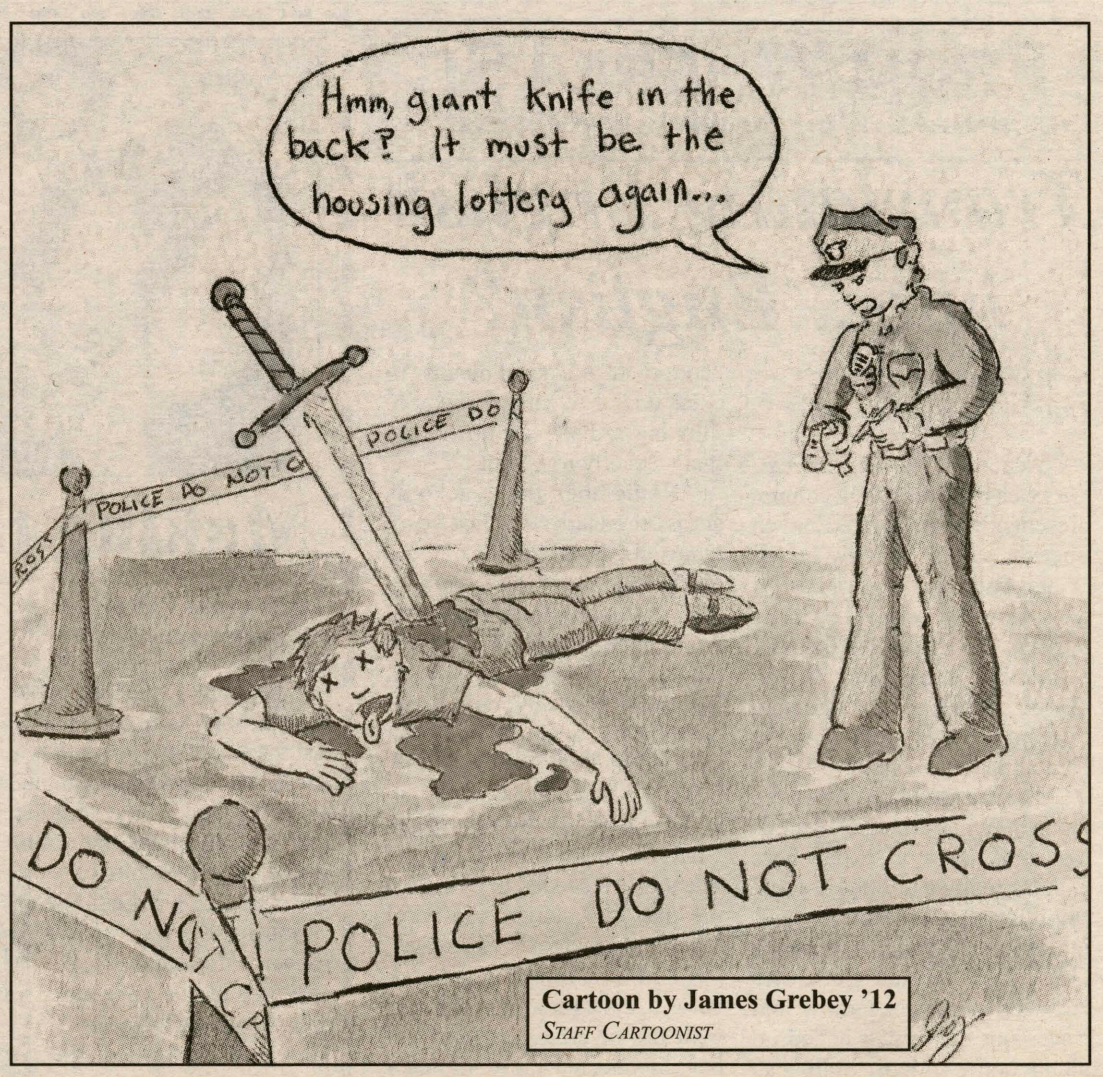
To his credit, Kirkland knew in his 18th century context and felt strongly that the Oneida people needed to learn the English language to avoid being subsumed by the cultural onslaught. He dedicated a large part of his adult life to that education.

Kirkland's noble intentions, however flawed, have significant portions that are to be valued. I hope we can move beyond our cultural discomfort and take the best of his ideas and expand them to even greater impact and effect. On the personal side, I had hoped to convey to the seniors I spoke to that their spectacular privilege – their Hamilton education – challenges them to advance humankind as Kirkland sought to do. It would be a distortion of what I had hoped to convey – and it would be behavior that I would disown if the worst aspects of Kirkland's views were mimicked.

I remain very proud of the accomplishments of the class of 2009. In any circumstances I would welcome the opportunity to listen to and talk with anyone in the Hamilton community who has concerns that they feel I should know.

Given the heightened sensitivity on campus regarding cultural issues, I would most certainly encourage further conversation and dialogue.

Sincerely,
Jon Hysell '72, P'04



Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

&*$ 'n Juice, Questioning Censorship @ Hamilton

To the Editor:

I write regarding the insights that a few of my peers outlined in their letters to the editor in the April 16 edition of the Spectator. Much of the concern in the first three letters, submitted by Casey Gibson, Stephen Okin, and Tim Minella, focused on the need to endorse free speech and open dialogue rather than limit and restrict it.

Unfortunately, last week I found myself contending with this same issue and struggling to prevent a burst of outrage when I was asked, along with two of my friends, to take down all of the posters and fliers around campus advertising the "Gin 'n Juice" party because of the reference to alcohol.

This request left me dumbfounded. At first, I was baffled as to why after several years (well over a decade) of a party being called "Gin 'n Juice" we were suddenly informed that the name of the event was inappropriate for the college community, and we had to remove the word "Gin" from the posters and other propaganda or take them down. We were told that by explicitly referencing a type of alcohol, we were in violation of the school's policy on posters and fliers. I became even more frustrated when we argued that the policy in fact states, "Postings must not mention the sale or distribution of alcohol," which our posters did not.

As it turns out, members of the Hamilton community felt offended by the mention of alcohol on the posters and deemed them inappropriate. Naturally, my colleagues and I argued further, but to no avail. We were even informed that, despite our earnest willingness to sit down and discuss the situation as adults, that no such thing would occur as the aggrieved party wished to remain anonymous. Having had our arguments extinguished, and a fairly basic right tread upon, we set about altering our posters in what was undoubtedly a less than satisfactory response to the administration's request.

This was not necessarily intended as a slap in the face to the administrators who had kindly taken the time to sit down and talk to us at length about the issue. It was, however, a statement regarding the nature of a policy that was being arbitrarily enforced, and the ridiculous situation that my friends and I found ourselves in. What about every time a flier or a mailbox invite for a party claims "adult beverages will be served?" Someone please give me an example of an "adult beverage" that doesn't refer to alcohol. Isn't there something in the Constitution about this? What about every party that follows the cliché (__insert witty rhyme here__) and hoes theme? I picked up a copy of the Daily Bull today, and on the back in large, capital lettering it read, "Get your dick out of your heart."

My point is not that these may be offensive and should be censored or banned altogether. On the contrary, I believe that starting down this path towards censorship is dangerous, and if the word "Gin" is too risqué to post in public I'm afraid of the changes that might be coming to Hamilton in the future. Mr. Gibson got it exactly right last week by stating "Being given a list of what is acceptable or unacceptable speech or thought is reminiscent of Jane Eyre-era boarding schools, not an institution of higher learning in the 21st century."

I understand the notion that having the word "Gin" in enormous letters on a poster in the dining hall probably doesn't look great to prospective students (or at least to their parents). That, I get. I understand that such an advertisement might make a statement about an "alcohol culture" in the collegiate atmosphere, or even at Hamilton specifically. I understand perfectly well why our poster can't (or at the very least shouldn't) announce "We will be serving alcohol from 8:30-12:30, come drink your face off." And I understand that Hamilton is a private institution, a "bubble" on a hill, disconnected from the real world save for lake effect snow and the rising costs of commodities causing Keystone Light 30 racks to become more expensive- and if the school wants to restrict what its students can post publicly around campus, so be it.

What I don't understand is how this particular situation suddenly triggered outrage or malcontent amongst one or several individuals. Or why all of a sudden this particular policy, essentially overlooked until now, becomes a pertinent issue that just so happens to arise in the wake of community outrage over an ill-advised invite that was promptly apologized for. Or how a poster with the name of 1) a popular rap song 2) an alcoholic beverage found at any bar, restaurant, or liquor store, and/or 3) an annual party, detracts from the cherished notion of liberal arts, higher education, and academic pursuits.

Mr. Okin wrote last week regarding the Mexican Party debacle and said, "The right to free speech takes precedent over the urge to label something offensive," and I couldn't agree more. But perhaps the First Amendment doesn't apply in the context of a private college. As an academic institution that prides itself on how well its students can write, think, and communicate, Hamilton should foster and allow for opportunities for open discussion and dialogue rather than enforce vague policies on the whims of upset or disgruntled community members. This course of action leaves the students with little or no recourse. It flies in the face of the long-lived and treasured tenet of free speech. It gives the faculty, staff, and administrators the opportunity to take off on some unchecked tyrannical power-trip.

In reality, that is probably extreme, and I would expect nothing of the sort from the administration. But in a community, especially, one as intimate as Hamilton's, people are going to get offended and disagreements and arguments will inevitably arise. Isn't the fact that students, faculty, and administrators all have different opinions and views what promotes a diverse, intellectually stimulating atmosphere? Everyone at Hamilton is an intelligent, articulate individual capable of engaging in and maintaining mature, constructive dialogue, and in the appropriate instances it should be done. This is of course not practicable for every single circumstance or dispute, but the fact that anyone can hide behind a wall of anonymity and decide what is and is not permissible or offensive is extraordinarily frustrating, and certainly less than democratic or productive.

Respectfully,
Jarrod Burton '09

FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Translating English into... English?

by Ronald Wai '10
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

According to *The Spectator*'s website, "the ESOL column presents the non-native English Speaker's point of view on his or her American experience." I guess since we're holed up in the bustling metropolis of Clinton, "American" experience can really be considered analogous to a "Hamilton" experience in the context of this column.

The reason I brought up the distinction between the "American" and "Hamilton" experiences is that I really can't be sure that Hamilton allows me to pass opinion on what I think America is like. I went to New York City last year for a weekend trip and it was not worth it; I ended up doing homework in Starbucks all of Saturday night and Sunday morning. I also strolled around Chattanooga, TN over spring break with my Alternative Spring Break group. But at the end of the day, the radius of my ground covered stands at the impressive distance between KJ and the turf field. Basically, I'm only exposed to a sheltered chunk of America; my views just can't be an adequate reflection of what America really is, so I apologize for any prejudice implied by my article!

As far as my international student point of view, I'd like to pass on one morsel that I affectionately tell my friends from home about. What struck me most in my two years at Hamilton was how, occasionally, people didn't cotton on to what I meant when I spoke, despite me clearly speaking English. You're probably wondering what "cotton on" means: it means "to catch on." I'm sure now you're thinking "Aha! I see now," and that's exactly my point.

Remember the blackouts across the Dark Side last year? One night there was one of these blackouts, and I was walking around looking for a flashlight. At home in Hong Kong we call flashlights torches, so I went around asking if anyone had one. Nobody did, which I found a bit weird, but then one girl said, "I have a flashlight though," to which I replied, "Sweet! That's what I meant! You're a lifesaver." She then proceeded to enlighten me that in America, the word "torch" refers to a stick on fire.

Did everyone really think I was asking for a wooden club with fire on it? Could they not have connected the dots that I was asking for a light source to help me navigate the darkened corridors of my Dark Side dorm? To this day, the night the power went AWOL bemuses me. The incident was the first of various similar endearing scenarios where I would say something and be met with bewilderment, even though (from my perspective), my meaning was actually a tad blatant. So in a nutshell, here's one clarification I'd like to make from my non-native English speakers' viewpoint of Hamilton: words are not rigid designators! Let's see a bit of astuteness; connect the dots! We're always rabbitting on about how Hamilton teaches us to be fluid with words, let's start proving it. A bit of linguistic versatility and open mindedness can go a really long way when two parties struggle to get their message across.

Making the Choice to Abstain

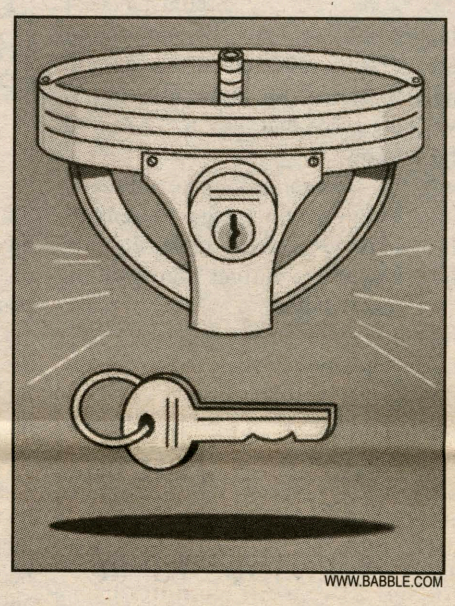
by Johanna Pajak '09
FEATURES COLUMNIST

Let's talk abstinence, baby. Hot, steamy, sexy abstinence. All the sex in this sex column could be potentially alienating for some, and I'd like to think that I'm all about inclusion. There's a party at third base and everyone's invited! No seriously, sexual liberation movements took the shape that they did because they were reacting to the very stringent norms of the times, but what's most important to note is that the right to have all the sex one wants should be just as much about the right to have as little sex as one feels comfortable with.

So, does it make sense to dedicate a sex column to abstinence? Heck yes, it does! I mean, most cookbooks have a diet chapter these days, right? It's exactly the same thing. So, last week a friend wrote in asking…

I am not a virgin but lately I've been feeling pressured by my new(ish) boyfriend to have sex with him and I'm not really ready yet. The last (and only) person I've had sex with was my ex of three years and even though I'm no longer a virgin, I still feel protective of my morals and reputation. Should I just give it up and stop being a prude? I do really like my boyfriend a lot and I'm worried that this will jeopardize the relationship.

-Not Boning in Bundy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Oh boy, Not Boning. What's tough about your situation is not that you're wrong and I have to explain to you all the reasons why, but because you're right to do whatever you please with your body and, yes, it very well might jeopardize your relationship. If this were a chatty "women's" show this would be the point where a sassy lady would chime in, "but if he doesn't respect you and your wishes then he doesn't deserve you, anyway!" But we all know that this line doesn't serve much practical purpose on the ground.

Both you and your boyfriend have perfectly reasonable wishes. There's nothing wrong with withholding sex, even if you're not a virgin, and there's nothing wrong with wanting to have as much sex as you can while you still look good doin' it. So what do you do? Where are you drawing the line? I mean, there's a long way to go from hand-holding to humping but the point at which you feel uncomfortable makes all the difference here. There is lots of sex-free sex stuff (or, sex-lite) that you and your boyfriend can do while you take the time you need to get comfortable. Our parents used to call it "heavy petting." You've got your standards: your bj's, hj's, dry humping (which can be quite a zesty enterprise) but you don't have to stop there! Get innovative! Start by going to www.urbandictionary.com and looking up the term "skinvelope." That should send you in the right erection—I mean direction... well, either works.

Separated at Birth?

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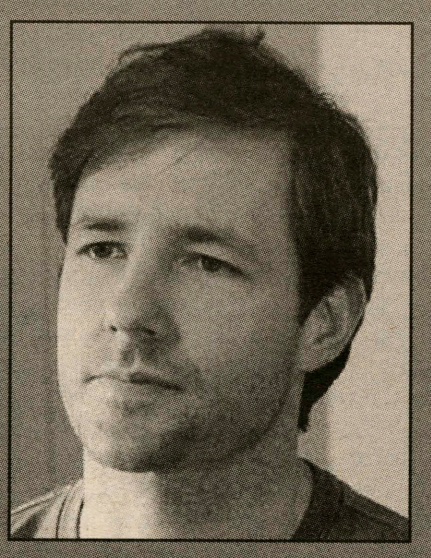
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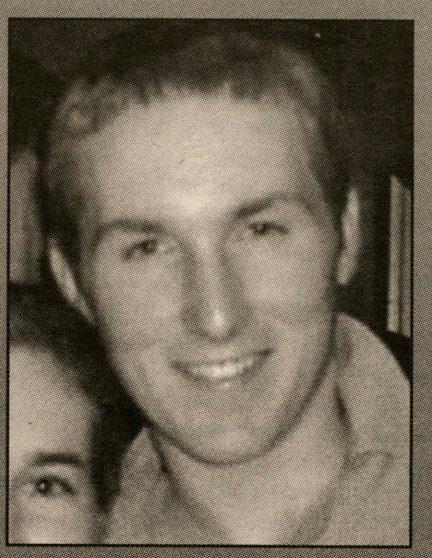
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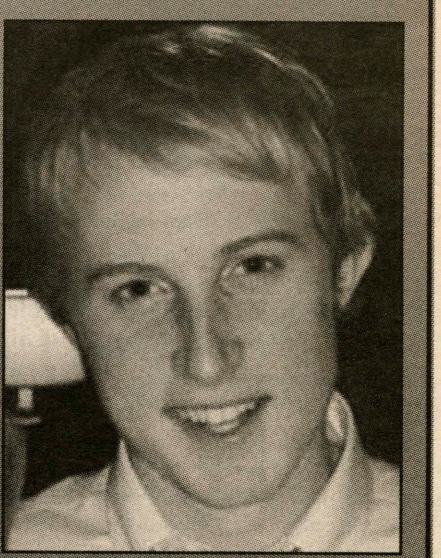

Cam Gaylord '09

Catching Up with Nancy Thompson

by Hadley Keller '12
Features Writer

In the 13 years she has been at Hamilton, Nancy Thompson never seems to have tired of her job or the atmosphere on the Hill. As the dean of students, Thompson is responsible for ensuring the well being of all 1,800 students. The day we met she was exhausted from organizing and working at Accepted Students' Day the day before, but she was still happy to talk to *The Spectator* about her job at Hamilton and her experience at the College.

Thompson said she loved her job because "every day is different. Every day brings something interesting and challenging." For Thompson, these daily challenges consist of helping to resolve problems for students and generally improving the campus climate, something which, as a longtime member of the College community, she is eager to do.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Dean of students Nancy Thompson reflects on changes and consistences she's seen during her 13 years at Hamilton.

She arrived on the Hill from the University of Arizona, where she worked in residential life. When asked about the differences between here and her previous place of work, Thompson shook her head and said, "Where do I even begin?" It is true that one would be hard-pressed to find two schools that are less alike, yet Thompson found a home in both of them. Both jobs offered her the ability to do what she loves most – help students.

When she first arrived on campus, Thompson was struck by the beauty of the landscape and impressed by how the College offered such an incredible education within a close-knit community. This is a community in which she has become incredibly involved after 13 years: Thompson's two daughters grew up in Clinton, and her family even lived in a dark side faculty apartment when they first arrived on campus.

Thompson notes that she has seen many changes in the years since she's worked at Hamilton. When she arrived in 1996, tensions were still lingering due to the Hamilton and Kirkland colleges merger. The community was in the process of getting used to a new, coeducational environment, and not everyone was in complete agreement that it was a good idea. After the merger was settled, the next big issue was the question of Greek organizations: should they exist?

Thompson saw Greek societies become non-residential in 1995 and believes that that decision succeeded in opening up the community.

One of the things she likes best about Hamilton is the diversity of living options that are available. Students can live with different people, in different locations for all of their four years. This, in her opinion, makes the campus feel a lot more connected than if students were to live in dorms divided by class year all four years, something common at larger universities such as Arizona.

Thompson has seen enormous change on the campus in terms of construction, and maintains that these have all been changes for the better. She seems proud of the college Hamilton has become, and confident in its future as a successful liberal arts college. She should be — she certainly has helped the school to become what it is today, and will no doubt continue to influence it for the better.

When she first arrived on campus, Thompson was struck by the beauty of the landscape and impressed by how the College offered such an incredible education within a close-knit community.

Bristol Fellowship Awarded

Ethan Woods '09 to explore the kitchens of the ancient Spice Route

by Lily Gillespie '12
Features Writer

Let's be honest: who wouldn't love to get paid to eat food? It sounds like a dream come true and for Ethan Woods '09, it really is. Woods was awarded the prestigious Bristol Fellowship this spring, which grants him $22,000 to live abroad for one year.

His project, *A Culinary Journey: Recipes through an Economic-Historic Lens* will take him through six countries. On this journey of self-discovery as he explores the economics behind food of Malaysia, India, Turkey, Germany, Austria and Italy. He explained that this trip will mark a period of "learning a lot about myself."

While most begin considering this opportunity sometime around the beginning of their senior year, Woods has actually been pursuing the Bristol Fellowship and the similar Watson Fellowship since his freshman year. Previously eager to explore the possibility of these two fellowships, Woods failed to meet one necessary requirement: he wasn't a senior.

When a job at Goldman Sachs during the summer of 2008 in New York City proved less than enthralling, Woods was forced to consider what he was truly passionate about. One of the things that came to his mind was cooking. Woods explained that cooking had always been a way for him to relax and to enjoy something he really loved. This kind of passion is exactly what the Bristol Fellowship requires of its applicants' entries. The award description states that "projects should be based on strong personal interest and commitment."

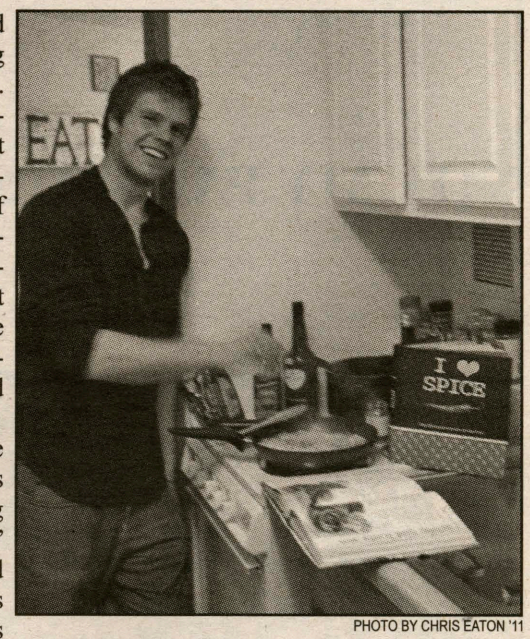


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

As one of five children, there was usually something cooking in Woods' family kitchen and his mother always kept the cookbooks open.

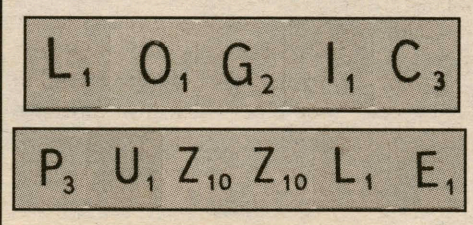
Woods was also an active Boy Scout, pursuing this activity through its highest level of Eagle Scout. His involvement with the Boy Scouts furthered his love of "campfire cooking" thanks to many camping trips he took with his troop.

Woods will surely need his Boy Scout training when he spends a year traveling through six countries, following the ancient spice route that extends from Malaysia to Germany.

Woods plans to take recipes from families or restaurants in the countries he visits and analyze them. He will trace the origin of the spices used in these recipes, thereby linking the food with the economics. For Woods, these two are "inextricably linked" because of the fact that this spice route marks one of the "first capitalist models in the world."

Although Woods is excited for his trip, he did express some reservations about the language barriers and his lack of extensive traveling. Woods, however, feels fully prepared to embrace the learning experience that awaits him.

Upon completion of his trip, Woods plans to compile a cookbook of recipes he has accumulated throughout his journey. He will be documenting his trip on video, which will be incorporated into his project. It is quite a trip Woods is about to embark upon, but it will also be the experience of a lifetime and something that I doubt he will ever forget.



by Russell Marcus
Professor of Philosophy

To celebrate the end of classes (and our final puzzle of the year) the physics department is planning to make their famous egg drop soup. To make egg drop soup, you have to break eleven eggs by dropping them from the highest step between the first and second floors of the Science Center which will cause them to break. If you drop an egg from too low a step, the egg will not break. If you drop an egg from too high a step, the soup will be ruined. There are twenty-one steps. Here are some more guidelines: If an egg does not break, it can be re-used. If one egg breaks, or fails to break, from a given step, then all the other eggs will do the same. If an egg breaks when dropped from a given step, then all eggs will break when dropped from all higher steps. If an egg does not break when dropped from a given step, then all eggs will not break when dropped from all lower steps. The physicists have a dozen eggs. If they needed the whole dozen for the soup, they would have to start at the first step, dropping an egg at each step until it broke. Once they reached the lowest step at which the egg breaks, they would drop the rest of the dozen, scrape them from the floor, and make the soup. This procedure might require as many as 36 egg drops. But, they only need eleven eggs. What is the fewest number of drops that is guaranteed to determine the right height from which to drop eggs, and which will lead to yummy egg-drop soup? Solutions must include an explanation.

Bonus Question

Can you generalize the result to n steps?

Rules

The winner of Puzzle #7 will be chosen at random among those who submit correct solutions to both the question and the bonus question. If there are no satisfactory answers to the bonus question submitted, then the winner will be chosen at random from among those who submit correct solutions to the main question.

Solutions may be sent to puzzle@hamilton.edu, or, via campus mail, to Russell Marcus, Philosophy Department. Make sure to include your contact information with your solution. Any one may play the puzzle, but only current Hamilton College students may win prizes. If the winner of the puzzle is not a Hamilton College student, a secondary winner may be chosen.

Prizes

Prize winners receive a t-shirt or mug from Lulasail, home of the best philosophy t-shirts on the web, or from The Unemployed Philosopher's Guild, which also has a wide range of philosophy paraphernalia.

The Deadline for Puzzle #7 is Tuesday, May 5 at 4pm. All entries must be received by that time.

Visit our website: www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.htm

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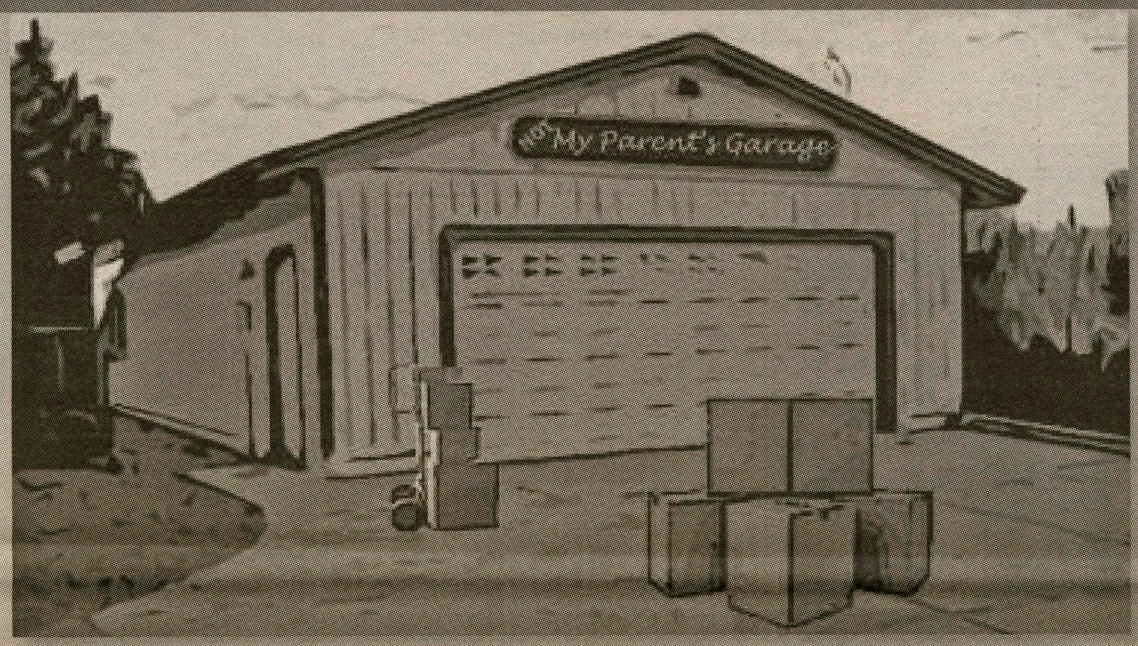

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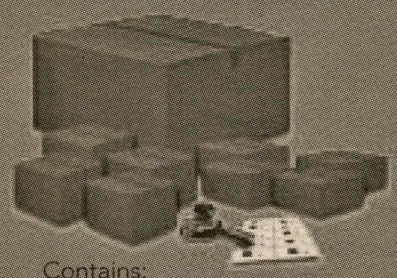

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"BABY, WE'RE THE GREATEST"

Hamilton Alumni Show Off Their Buff Sides

by Lexi Nisita '12
A&E Writer

Make of this statement what you will, but *Streak to Win* (both the low-budget documentary and the concept) embodies the very best of Hamilton College. The film premiered in the Tolles Pavillion on Friday, April 24 and can also be seen in four parts on www.streaktowin.com. *Streak to Win* follows the progress of the prestigious Hamilton College Varsity Streaking Team on a groundbreaking tour of various NESCAC schools. Its tongue-in-cheek, often self-deprecating hilarity is just the kind of humor we expect at Hamilton, and regardless of whether or not you are comfortable with public nudity, it is almost impossible not to feel a deep sense of endearment for the College while watching. Some might attempt to downgrade the film by claiming that every liberal arts college has a streaking team and that the jokes are mere examples of irreverence and lack of direction among American youth (as one member of the team states, "I had a thesis to write but what was I doing? Streaking"). And yet somehow, it feels like this could only happen at Hamilton, and that is something we ought to be very proud of.

The title of the film begs the question, "how does one win a streak?" It is difficult to classify what exactly determines a win in the field of streaking, since the matches are generally unadvertised to anyone but the players, and there exists no opposition besides offended mothers and campus safety officers. The documentary highlights several essentials to winning, including everything from carrying only necessities (backpacks, tutus, possibly masks) to shocking as many people as possible (Middlebury College cheerleaders, especially).

WWW.STREAKTOWIN.COM

When it was founded, Hamilton's controversial streaking team received national news coverage.

However, the most vital thing to understand about streaking, a streaker explains in the beginning of the film, is that it is in no way sexual. This is both what most of the offended audience does not seem to understand, as well as what makes streaking so great. A true streaker feels no shame in nakedness, despite the knowledge that passers-by are undoubtedly critiquing the size and shape of their now-public private parts. The appeal of the sport rests upon two pillars: the players' need to liberate themselves from the cruel prison of clothing and an ardent desire for intense exhilaration without losing money or brain cells to cocaine. When trying to convince rookies at Bates College to join in on the streak, one participant wisely explains the streaker's fundamental slogan: "Don't think, just do it!"

Although the documentary might drag on at a few points, it would be obscene to critique it because it represents the abolition of judgment in favor of pure, uninhibited joy. The documentary begins with a disclaimer that the film is intended for mature audiences only, a comically ironic statement because the streakers represent an absolute lack of maturity (in the best way possible). The Varsity Streaking Team, with its commitment to excellence and fearless conquest of ridiculous experiences, is a true symbol of the spirit of Hamilton College at its best. As he runs naked through a Bates dining hall, one team member exclaims, "This is what liberal arts is about." I can't help but believe him.

Real Life: Inside a Legendary Pictures Internship

by Lyndra Vassar '09
A & E Contributor

"Why so serious?" Repeat these words aloud and you're likely to conjure the image of a deranged Heath Ledger projected across a wide movie screen. Whether it is the pervasive Facebook banter praising Ledger's performance or Batman's muscular physique freeze-framed on the side of a passing bus, many of us felt compelled, if not curious enough, to see *The Dark Knight* at least once last summer. Like many Hamilton students, I also stood in line to see *The Dark Knight* for the first time. Yet, I was proud to report that standing merely a few feet away from me was one of the men responsible for the film itself: Thomas Tull '92, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Legendary Pictures.

Though mingling with Hollywood CEOs isn't a typical part of my social life, attending *The Dark Knight* screening on the Warner Bros. lot was one of the many perks of interning with Legendary Pictures last summer. The process of securing an internship with Legendary was competitive but rewarding. During Spring '08, when Thomas Tull visited Hamilton as a guest speaker, interviews for summer internships were conducted in Bristol Center. Hamilton students completed several rounds of interviews with Legendary's representatives until the finalists were selected. I left my final interview feeling slightly anxious and was extremely surprised to receive the exciting news of my acceptance as an intern a few weeks later.

I began my internship with Legendary Pictures in May 2008 and anticipated the new work I would receive. The first lessons of my internship occurred the moment I stepped onto the Warner Bros. lot. I saw the various buildings labeled by their different departments within film production: Pre-Development, Development, Production and Post-Production. A simple walk around the lot began to teach me how a film is actually made. My sudden transition from the unassuming quietude of Burbank, California to the fast-paced world of film-making couldn't have been more apparent or exciting.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNDRA VSSAR '09

Lyndra Vassar '09 says her exciting Legendary Pictures experience was her best internship.

My internship with Legendary was divided between the Business, New Media and Creative Development departments. During my first three weeks of interning, I worked with the Business, New Media Department where I became knowledgeable in Legendary's various business plans, film finance and methods of creating multi-media business platforms for films that could expand Legendary's revenue and audiences.

During my initial weeks with Legendary, I had to make a great deal of adjustments. The work environment within a production company can fluctuate from being a fairly slow and quiet day of reading scripts to a cacophony of ringing phones and Blackberry alerts for meetings. I slowly became accustomed to working in an unpredictable environment, multi-tasking and taking the initiative to answer my own questions. Even when I'd ruminate over the smallest questions, two of Tull's colleagues with whom I worked closely always encouraged me to conduct research to discover my own answers, and normally, I was successful. Although initially frustrating, it was this method of interactive learning that allowed me to gain a keen sense of how business operates within the film development and finance. My ability to persevere through the first overwhelming weeks in Business, New Media ultimately led to my successful completion of a project on videogame and film convergence, currently a popular buzz topic in Hollywood.

Having the opportunity to intern with a company like Legendary Pictures was unique not only because of its intriguing industry but also because of its employees. For a company that has aided in the creation of superhero classics like *Superman Returns, Batman Begins,* and *The Dark Knight,* Legendary remains relatively small, boasting a staff of extremely friendly and welcoming people who know each other well. Despite its location on the Warner Bros Lot, the atmosphere of Legendary remains efficient yet relaxed.

After forging my own connections with some of Legendary's employees, I regrettably had to face my final weeks with the company. During my last weeks of interning, I worked with Legendary's Creative Development team. I read scripts, attended meetings with screenwriters, created directors' lists for films and searched for creative intellectual property that could successfully fit Legendary's demographics.

On a typical workday with Legendary's Creative Development team, I'd read scripts, comic books and graphics novels about which I'd complete "coverage," a 2-3 page written document stating whether or not the material should be considered for a film. Through these written reports, I actively presented my opinions and insights regarding creative materials, a job that was demanding but engaging.

When I first started working at Legendary Pictures, my knowledge of film was fairly limited. Being a native of Los Angeles, my upbringing was inundated with snippets of classic Hollywood, celebrities and commercial films. I had completed a previous internship with MTV Networks, but I wasn't exposed to the complexities of the film industry until interning with Legendary Pictures. Legendary Pictures valued the opportunity to provide interns with first-hand experience rather than merely assign menial administrative tasks around the office, an effort for which I was truly grateful.

Perhaps my gratitude stemmed from having the opportunity to meet with Thomas Tull and share my thoughts about the internship. During a final meeting with the interns, Tull requested that we offer honest feedback and possible points of improvement for future Hamilton students. Overall, I had nothing unfavorable to say. By the end of the meeting, I could only thank him for his earnestness and what had been the best summer internship in my four years at Hamilton.

My connections with Legendary Pictures remain indispensable even here on the Hill. Not only have I created a new network of career possibilities, but I've also gained a first-hand account of the labor behind the thrill of the big screen. I had a rare glimpse into the arduous work, creativity and aptitude required to create what most of have come to know as a mere two hours of leisure, entertainment and rolling credits.

Upcoming Rock Releases

by Matt Nudell '11
Arts & Entertainment Writer

What's up Hamilton Rock fans? There are a lot of punk/rock albums coming out in the next couple of months. So instead of doing a specific music review on one album, I decided to write about several of the highly anticipated LPs that are debuting in the latter half of 2009.

Green Day, *21st Century Breakdown,* Release Date May 15th 2009: This is for all you punk rockers on the Hill. Music producer and garage band member Butch Vig recently teamed up with the punk trio to produce the sequel to Green Day's critically acclaimed punk-rock opera *American Idiot* (2004). Billie Joe Armstrong stated that Queen, The Clash, The Who, Bruce Springsteen, The Beach Boys and The Beatles influenced the album's sound. *21st Century Breakdown* follows a similar, but extended, rock opera form to *American Idiot* and is divided into 3 acts: "Heroes and Cons," "Charlatans and Saints," and "Horseshoes and Handgrenades." In addition, the album's lyrics are very politically charged. Nonetheless, *Rolling Stone* asserted that the album is "even more ambitious than American Idiot and a record of die-hard punk ideals…tightly scripted, continually ascending classic-rock excitement." Even though the album's first single "Know Your Enemy" has gotten mixed reviews, critics claim that the album will be a definite grower.

Pearl Jam, ***Untitled***, Fall 2009: Pearl Jam reunited this year with famed producer Brendan O'Brien to record their new untitled album, which will be released in the fall of 2009. O'Brien produced four of Pearl Jam's earlier albums: *Vs., Vitalogy, No Code,* and *Yield*. Supposedly halfway through recording, Pearl Jam has stated that the album's sound is "really strong and uptempo." In addition, Pearl Jam is no longer signed to J Records, suggesting that the band will self-release the new record. The band is headlining the Outside Lands Music and Arts Festival in August and the Austin City Limits Music Festival in October. Pearl Jam will also schedule a tour in support of the album.

Alice in Chains, *Untitled*, Summer 2009: After the tragic death of talented lead singer Layne Staley in 2002, it looked as if Alice in Chains' career had come to an abrupt halt. Nevertheless, the band reunited in 2005 with new lead vocalist William DuVall, formally known as the singer of the rock band Comes With The Fall and temporary vocalist of hard rock act Velvet Revolver. The band entered the studio in October 2008 under the production leadership of Nick Raskulinecz (Foo Fighters, Rush). The band has stated in March that the album is now in post-production and will be released in the summer of 2009. Alice In Chains plans to headline Australia's Soundwave Festival and the Rock on the Range Festival in Columbus, OH this May. Moreover, many of the band's fans are displeased with the replacement of Staley, whose piercing, growling vocals were an essential component to the grunge act's original sound. However, the band has "expressed that the new songs will hopefully strike a chord and make a similar impact on all of you out there that were moved by this band in the first place."

Other albums to keep an eye out for: Dave Matthews Band's *Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King,* produced by Rob Cavallo (Green Day, Goo Goo Dolls, Alanis Morissette, My Chemical Romance), Release Date June 2nd 2009; John Mayer's *Battle Studies*, Release Date TBD; Wolfmother's *Comic Egg*, Release Date September 2009, Third Eye Blind's *Ursa Major* and Mars Volta's *Octahedron* on June 23rd 2009.

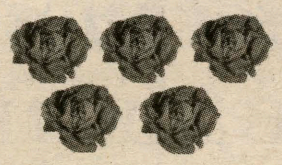
How Many Lettuce Heads?

by Joshua Hicks '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Man in the Iron Mask

Jeremy Irons, the star of the *The Mission*, could not save the king of France from near disaster. In the classic tale by Alexander Dumas, *The Man In the Iron Mask* (1998) is a tale of four companions whose long forgotten legend resurfaces when they are demanded to replace the not-so-nice king of France (Leonardo DiCaprio) for his long, lost and hidden twin brother (Leonardo DiCaprio). When the fourth Musketeer (Gabriel Byrne as D'Artagnan) learns of this plot, he is outraged and will not commit, so the former three decide to unmask the secret King Louis and displace his brother. What happens next, you'll have to find out for yourself. And while the story and cast (John Malkovich, Gerard Depardieu and Irons) are fantastic, the film itself remains stuck in the 90's (1998 to be exact) and should probably stay there. If you haven't seen it, it's okay. I'll give it three out of five Lettuce Heads because Peter Sarsgaard (the grave digger from Garden State who smokes a lot of weed) is also in it, and he's cool.

The Mission



I am going to start this review off by saying just one thing: I love Jeremy Irons. The second film I'd like to introduce to you is is *The Mission* (1986), starring my favorite, Irons, and Robert DeNiro in an intriguing drama in a struggle against slavery in Central America. While Portugal is attempting to seize this new-found mission, a Jesuit priest and his recently converted slave hunter friend make all the moves and pleas necessary to preserve the people in their native home without having to submit to the Portuguese mercenaries. This movie tells a powerful and a beautiful story of religion, passion and devotion to one's beliefs.

The Mission receives five out of five Lettuce Heads because it truly speaks to me, especially in light of recent events on campus which have incited discussion about the rights of others. I recommend this film because it tackles such important issues and leaves audience members awestruck at the end.

The Lion King

Now for the cream of the crop! Everyone remembers who performed Simba's voice, and just about everyone with a brain knows that Darth Vader plays Mufasa (sorry James Earl Jones). But how many of you knew that Jeremy Irons was the voice for the evil character Scar? This 1994 animated film is a defining moment for many-a young person today, and it's not just because of the killer soundtrack (by the way, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" is highly recommended for you spring time lovebirds).

The film itself sends a deep and powerful message. Actually, I'd say it has quite a few profound messages. But you don't have to take my word for it. If you haven't seen *The Lion King,* you have been spending way too much time playing video games or studying in the Science Center. I give this classic film from our childhoods five out of five Lettuce Heads. If you see it, I promise you won't stop thanking your friends that they forced you to see a true Disney classic. Hakuna Matata!

MY THESIS HOROSCOPES

by Steve Allinger '09
Staff Seer

Aries: *Ok, so my thesis is literally draining my will to live and I have no creativity or humor left in my desiccated skull. Horoscopes this week will not be horoscopes at all but rather random misfiring brain synapses that will bleed out of my ears and into my laptop.*

Gemini: *I have roughly 400 miniature pencils from the library.*

Cancer: Two words: *cheese infused hotdogs.*

Leo: *Never drunkenly carve your name into your own cellphone. Even though there is no technical reason for it to stop working, apparently phones can die of shame.*

Virgo: *What is it about tour groups that makes you just want to frighten them in some horribly lewd way?*

Libra: *Bees and hornets are interesting. They can sting me, but I can just as easily kill them. So how come I'm not the one getting up in their face and making intimidating buzzing sounds.*

Scorpio: *I really wish that when you type the wrong password into the Macs at the library the screen wouldn't shake its head vigorously at you like you're a naughty toddler.*

Sagittarius: *If I don't graduate this semester, I am going to permanently haunt the History Department.*

Capricorn: *Teach for America: I hope that a legion of shark-riding grizzly bears wielding flaming cobra spears demolishes your entire organization.*

Aquarius: *Where do goats get off looking like they do? Seriously, it's ridiculous. Have some g*ddamn self-respect.*

Pisces/Taurus: *Eve and Alexandra: An open statement to all jobs that have rejected us: "LET THEM EAT CAKE... years from now when we're millionaires, you'll be asking us for jobs."*

Swine Flu: Possible Pandemic or Just Paranoia?

New Outbreak of Mutated Flu Virus Raises Concerns Among CDC, WHO and Health Center

by Ben Trachtman '12
Science & Technology Writer

The Thomas Rudd Health Center sent out an e-mail on Monday, April 27 warning the campus community of the dangers of swine flu, a highly contagious strain of influenza that is currently spreading across the world. The outbreak originated in Mexico, where there have been over 1,600 confirmed cases and at least 150 deaths. There are confirmed and suspected cases all over the world, including in the United States, where swine flu has been declared a public health emergency. Richard Besser, acting director of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), said, "I fully expect we will see deaths from this infection."

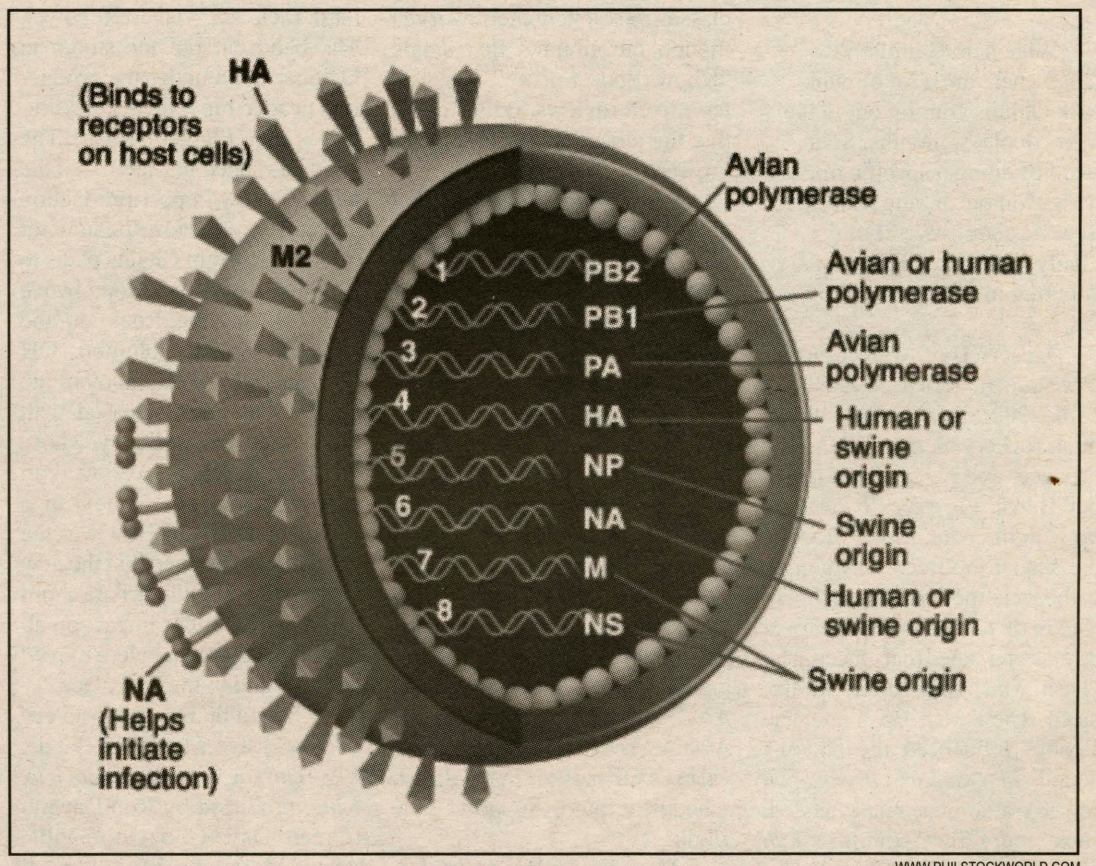
In the U.S., there have been a total of at least 91 confirmed cases across 10 states, including 51 confirmed cases in New York City, and the numbers are growing rapidly. The disease has spread across the globe, with confirmed cases in Spain, Israel, New Zealand and several more suspected cases across Europe and into Asia.

This current outbreak is reminiscent of the avian flu scare of 2003 and 2004. In both cases, a mutation in the flu virus, which originated among farm animals, enabled it to transfer from an animal to a human host. Unlike avian flu, however, swine flu has mutated again and is now capable of human-to-human transfers. The World Health Organization has declared a pandemic level of four on a one to six scale, indicating the virus is capable of sustained human transmission and could cause "community-level outbreaks."

Symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of the seasonal flu, including coughing, sneezing, sore throat, and fever. The virus is spread primarily through coughing or sneezing; it cannot be spread through pork products. The Health Center recommends that students "practice common-sense precautions" to minimize exposure to the virus. This includes increased hand washing, using alcohol-based sanitizers, and avoiding sharing glasses or utensils.

The virus is not prevented by seasonal flu shots and is resistant to two of the four standard antivirus drugs. The CDC has tapped into its National Strategic Stockpile for antiviral drugs and respiration-protecting devices, such as surgical masks, in an attempt to slow or prevent the spread of the flu. However, widespread vaccinations would be risky, because vaccinations would encourage the virus to develop immunity to the drug, making it more difficult to eradicate.

When asked about the flu, Will Thoreson-Green '12 replied, "Being young and of generally good health, I'm not worried about swine flu." Despite the 51 infections in New York City, he says, "Given the total overall population in New York City, it's not a big deal, and the chances of me getting swine flu are pretty small."



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The particular subtype of Swine Flu currently concerning medical officials, variation H1N1, is identified by specific proteins and mutations in normal flu DNA.

Nevertheless, safety precautions should be observed, especially because swine flu tends to be more fatal in individuals with a healthy immune system. While most fatalities of the seasonal flu are the young and the elderly, most deaths from swine flu have been observed in healthy adults. The predominant theory for this phenomenon is that, unlike the seasonal flu, swine flu causes the immune system to overreact and target not only the virus but also the body's own cells.

While today's medicine makes it improbable that this outbreak will be on the same scale as the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, the two viruses share surprising similarities: they are both the same type of virus and are capable of killing healthy adults. Experts are divided as to whether this outbreak could become a global pandemic or whether it is no worse than a seasonal flu with greater media attention.

Does Facebook Affect Your GPA?

by Yinghan Ding '12
Science & Technology Writer

Do you have a Facebook account? If so, you are one of 175 million active users of Facebook around the world, which makes Facebook one of the fastest-growing and best-known sites on the Internet today. It surpassed Myspace to become the most popular social network a few years ago, and the site was valued at an amazing 15 billion dollars last year.

However, problems arise with the soaring growth of Facebook, as parents and teachers complain that students perform worse in academics because they are spending too much time socializing on Facebook. A recent study by Ohio State University showed that Facebook use was linked to lower grades in college, a result that was controversial, but not surprising to many.

The common argument says that college students who use Facebook spend less time studying, and thus have lower grade point averages (GPAs) than students who have not signed up for this social networking website. The argument was tested in a current study of 219 students at Ohio State, of whom 148 said they had a Facebook account. According to the study, Facebook users on average had GPAs between 3.0 and 3.5, while non-users had GPAs between 3.5 and 4.0. In addition, Facebook users spent about one to five hours per week studying, while non-users studied 11 to 15 hours per week. These numbers seem to show that the use of Facebook will lower your academic performances, but is this really true?

Two counterarguments are presented in favor of Facebook. First, even if it weren't for Facebook, some students would still find other ways to avoid studying, such as watching TV and playing video games. Facebook is actually a better way of "wasting time," because Facebook can provide you great social connections, while TV and video

*see **Facebook**, page 13*

Autism Awareness Month: The Truth About Savants

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

Ever since *Rain Man* came out in 1988, the image of autism has been indelibly tied to that of an autistic savant. For many of the current crop of college students, no other image exists. Unfortunately, confusing autism with savant syndrome gives rise to a number of misconceptions about what autism is and what to expect when meeting people with the disorder. Just as assuming that all people with testicular cancer are secretly Tour de France-caliber cyclists a la Lance Armstrong, assuming that all people with autism are savants is pure fantasy.

Do not misunderstand; savants do exist. A savant is defined as a person with a specific extraordinarily ability, often connected with memory, in contrast to the person's limitations in other areas of life. Dustin Hoffman's character in *Rain Man*, for example, was directly based on an actual person named Kim Peek, who actually has the incredible memory capabilities shown in the movie. Peek can also name any zip code in the United

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Some scholars suggest Mozart was an autistic savant.

*see **Savant**, page 14*

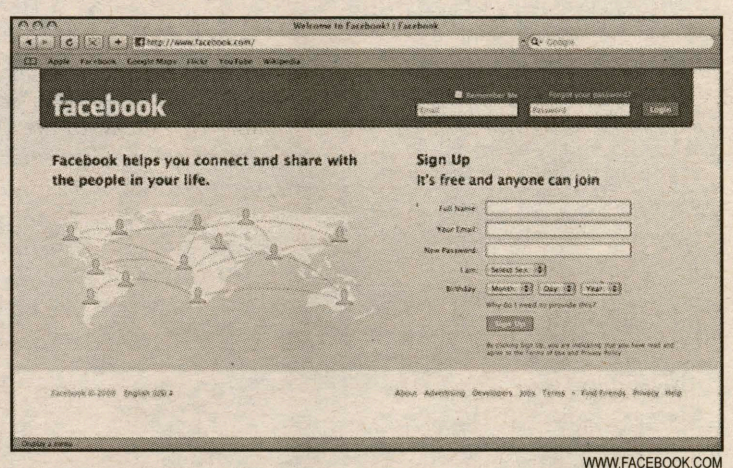
Facebook Use Has Been Linked to Lower GPAs

from ***Does****, page 12*

games can't. Students who are really motivated can manage their time well between studying and Facebook use, so Facebook use doesn't necessary lead to less time spent on studying. Rather, those students who are going to waste time anyway are simply doing so on Facebook. As Tiffany Schreck '12 said, "It [Facebook] sucks my soul, but I wouldn't be doing anything productive anyway."

Secondly, since Facebook was only one of the many factors that cause students to study less, the link between the use of Facebook and lower grade point average does not make perfect sense. More than 79 percent of Facebook users claimed that it did not have an impact on their academic performance, and they all emphasized that academics were a priority to them. Students who are weak in academics perform poorly academically without frequent Facebook use, whereas people who are strong in academics perform well even, with Facebook use. In this way, a horizontal GPA comparison among students is not a good measurement of the effects of Facebook usage. A vertical comparison of a student's GPA fluctuation during his or her time in college would be a more accurate statistic representing the impact of Facebook use.

Even though there is only an implied causation between using Facebook and performing poorly in academics, the overuse of Facebook seems to have negative effects on students' academic studies. The solution is not complicated—try to use Facebook only to communicate with friends who are far away and hard to reach, not for friends who you speak to in person every day. For example, Associate Professor of Mathematics Michelle LeMasurier said, "…For me Facebook has been great in terms of social networking…but I have to admit that it really is the ultimate time waster. I try to limit my correspondence only to friends living far away, who I normally don't get to talk to much."



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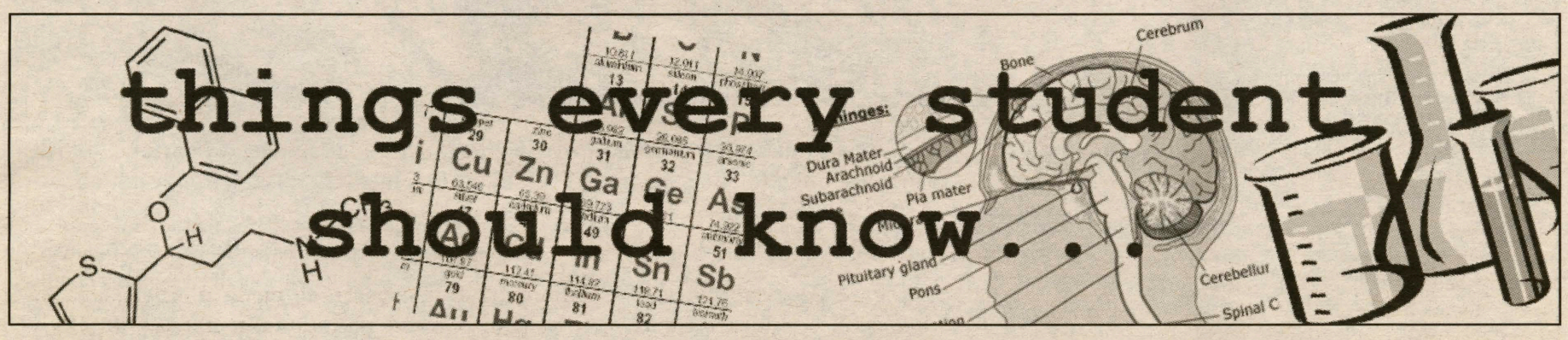
Facebook use has recently been linked to lower grades.



Ouch! Choosing from a Plethora of Painkillers

by Julia Litzky '12
Science & Technology Editor

Whether it's pain from a headache, swelling from a sprained ankle or a fever and chills, we often turn to over-the-counter medications to alleviate pain and discomfort. This leaves us with many options. The medicine aisle contains an assortment of painkillers, all with a different chemical makeup and slightly different biological effects. So what are the differences between some of the most popular painkillers? And what are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Tylenol:

Tylenol uses acetaminophen to override your body's pain threshold. The exact mechanisms are not well understood, but it is thought that it essentially convinces your brain that the pain is not there. Tylenol is ideal for headaches and fevers and for those who can't handle anti-inflammatory medications because of the stomach problems other painkillers can cause. However, because it only tricks your brain, it does not affect the rest of your body, so it won't reduce swelling. Additionally, Tylenol, more than other painkillers, should only be taken in the appropriate amounts. Overdose can cause liver failure, which is irreversible without a liver transplant.

Advil and Motrin:

The active ingredient in both Advil and Motrin is Ibuprofen, which can also be bought in its generic form. Unlike Tylenol, Advil is an anti-inflammatory, meaning that it will help reduce swelling and is best suited for pain caused by inflammation. The exact mechanisms of ibuprofen are also not well understood, but it is thought that it inhibits the production of chemicals that cause inflammation, called prostaglandins. So, in contrast with Tylenol, ibuprofen-based medications work at the site of the pain instead of in the brain. Because prostaglandins are mostly being produced in areas with pain and swelling, the drug can target the area of pain without inhibiting feeling elsewhere.

The anti-inflammatory effects of ibuprofen make it ideal when the pain is associated with swelling. Prostaglandins also have many other regulatory functions within the body, one of which is to maintain body temperature, so ibuprofen is also effective at reducing fevers. However, another regulatory function of prostaglandins involves protecting the lining of the stomach. Since ibuprofen inhibits prostaglandin production, too much ibuprofen can cause stomach bleeding and ulcers.

Aspirin:

Aspirin is made from acetylsalicylic acid, which also helps control production of prostaglandins. Therefore, Aspirin and Advil have some similar effects, and both can reduce fever, inflammation and pain. However, aspirin is also an anticoagulant because it also inhibits the prostaglandins that cause blood platelets to stick together, which results in a reduction in the risk of heart attack or stroke. This is why it is often recommended that those at risk of heart attack or stroke take an aspirin daily.

However, because it inhibits the clotting of blood, aspirin should not be taken if you have a nosebleed or a cut that won't scab. A daily aspirin tablet has also been linked to reduced risk of colon cancer, because it also inhibits certain prostaglandins that have been correlated with tumor formation.

Aspirin does have negative side effects as well. Primarily, it can damage the lining of the stomach, like ibuprofen. Also, take caution, because it is not safe for children or adolescents, especially if they are recovering from a viral infection. Aspirin and other salicylate-containing medications can trigger Reye's syndrome, which usually results in the destruction of the brain and liver, eventually causing death. For more information on Reye's syndrome, see www.ninds.nih.gov or www.reyessndrome.org.

Aleve:

Aleve also reduces prostaglandin production but uses the chemical naproxen. Because it works in a comparable way to ibuprofin, both have similar effects and side-effects, the most common being stomach problems. However, it is a much more effective anti-inflammatory than ibuprofen and aspirin. For this reason, it is most often recommended to arthritis patients, but is also most likely the most effective medication for sprains, sunburns and menstrual cramps.

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With the wide selection of over-the-counter painkillers available, it is sometimes difficult to know which one will be most effective for your particular complaint.

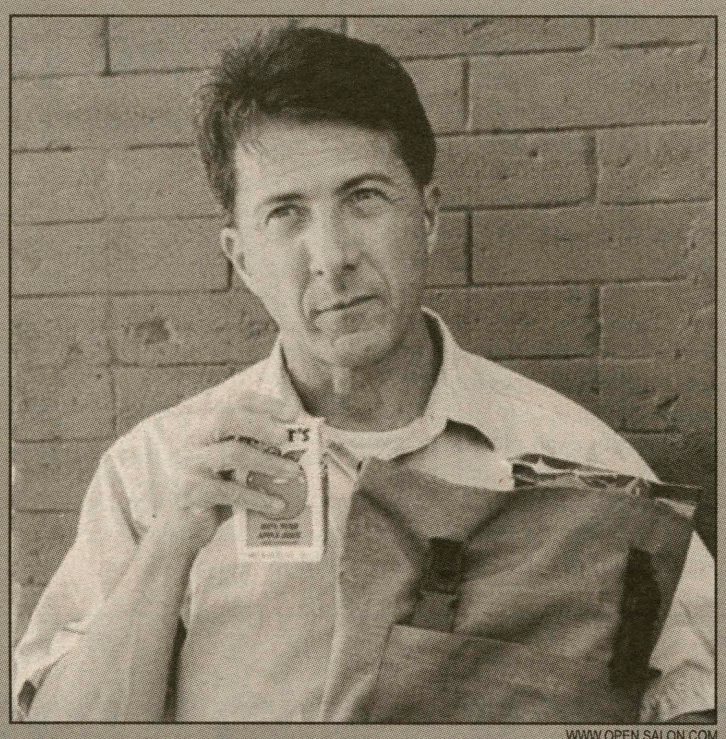
Savant Syndrome is Misunderstood by Many

Famous Historical Savants May Have Included Mozart, Napoleon, Beethoven and Einstein

*from **Autism**, page 12*

States based on the town and state. He can recite almost every word he has ever read and has stood up to intense and specific historical questions from an audience at Harvard Graduate School without missing a single one.

There are also many historical figures who scholars today suggest may have been savants. This illustrious group includes Mozart, Napoleon, Beethoven, Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. However, it is extraordinarily hard to prove such claims in retrospect as there is no biological way of determining who is and is not a savant; a diagnosis of savant syndrome is based on a person's abilities, not any biological characteristic.



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Dustin Hoffman (left) played a savant modeled after Kim Peek (right) for the 1988 movie *Rain Man*. Contrary to popular belief, not all savants are autistic. For example, Peek himself is mentally disabled, but not autistic.

Despite the popularity of the term autistic savant in describing all savants, only about half of the people who have savant syndrome are also autistic. Most savants, however, do have some neurological abnormality in addition to their savant capabilities. Kim Peek, who has become the classic model for a savant, is not autistic. The reason for this discrepancy is quite simple: a diagnosis of autism is based on inabilities and disabilities in social communication, whereas savant syndrome is defined by extraordinary abilities. Sometimes these characteristics overlap; sometimes they do not. Since a combination of ability and disability tends to make a better story, the popular perception of a savant has become an autistic savant.

Likewise, only a very small minority of people with autism are savants. Typically when dealing with statistics surrounding autism, the exact percentage is not known for sure. Studies estimate that between two and ten percent of people with autism are savants. It is possible that some people with autism may have savant capabilities that they are unable to manifest due to their autism, but it would be a terrible injustice to appreciate people with autism only for potential latent savant abilities.

Another misconception is the idea that savant capabilities are always useful. Most savants do not have the capability to beat the house in Las Vegas. Savant abilities can come in many forms. One well-known savant can draw figures on horseback perfectly (an incredibly difficult artistic feat) but can draw neither figures nor horses on their own. Others have incredible memories, but only about very specific topics.

While the concept of autistic savants will no doubt fascinate people for generations to come, savant powers are not superpowers, and savants are not machines. They are people and, autistic or not, are deserving of respect as human beings. Generalizing whole groups of people based on a single example is never a good idea, and the example of autistic savants is no exception.

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Weekly Green Tip

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

Eat fewer animal products. For most of us going vegan is not an option. However, animals consume massive amounts of grain and water and also produce many tons of waste So when you are eating a roasted chicken for example, you are not just eating the chicken but, by extension, all the grains the chicken ate while it was alive as well. Eating less meat and dairy frees up the grains that would go to feeding animals. This land can then be reforested or used to cycle crops that would otherwise be planted in new fields hacked from rainforests, wetlands and other natural environments. In addition, the runoff from the concentrated waste in farms pollutes the water supply.

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~ MARK TWAIN

Exiles' Rugby Spring Season Success Continues

by Gregory Jordan '11
Sports Writer

This past Saturday the Hamilton Exiles Men's Rugby team laced up their boots to battle Division I SUNY Brockport. The Exiles jumped out to a dominant start driving the ball deep into Brockport's territory. After fifteen minutes of hard fought repetitions, pushing the opponent back towards their goal line, the Exiles were awarded a penalty by drawing Brockport offsides. From the penalty, sophomore forward Robert Bryan opened up the scoring for the Exiles by striking the ball through the uprights from just outside the twenty-two meter line making it 3-0. Soon after the Brockport kick-off, senior back Lars Margolis received a pass from Jack Milson '10 and broke through the defensive line to add to the Exiles' lead. Hamilton's fast paced tempo continued as they took an 18-0 lead into halftime behind a try from Milson and another penalty kick from the foot of Bryan.

Brockport came out strong in the second half with the Exiles down a man due to Jesse Stromwick '09 serving a ten minute "sin-bin" penalty after a high tackle late in the first half. The opponent powered down into Exiles' territory and drove in seven points closing the gap to 18-7. After Brockport had another quick score, scrumhalf Alex Russell '11 led an attack down the field to set up another penalty kick from Bryan. Brockport would not quit as they tightened up defensively and went on a tear to bring the score to 21-19 with twenty minutes left on the clock.

Immediately following the Brockport score, the Exiles were compiling a promising drive when junior forward Paul Seok collided head to head with backline player Milson causing forty minutes of stoppage. Seok left the field to receive stitches and Milson was carted off to the hospital with a concussion. The delay of game allowed for each team to catch a breath and gear up for the final quarter of play. The intensity rose as the clock wound down to fifteen minutes. With time running out, Hamilton and Brockport found each other jockeying back and forth for field position. Finally, Hamilton broke through and Margolis threaded a pass to sophomore Ngoc Nguyen for the final Exiles score of the day. Bryan made the conversion to make the score 28-19. Brockport would answer back, however, it was too little too late. They punched in a try on the last play of the game, but fell four points shy of the Exiles as Hamilton went on to win the game 28-24. Captain Colden Prime '10 summed the game up as follows: "It was a rough fight out there, especially when you are going up against a Division I state school, but in the end our speed and cohesive play outmatched their big, hard hitting side." The speed and fitness of the Exiles has been a key to their success and will hopefully translate into another win this coming Saturday as the Exiles take on Union in their final game of the spring season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BILL GETMAN '09

The Men's Rugby Team has been an exceptional success story at Hamilton College.

Track & Field Enters NESCAC

by James Russell '09 and Scott Bickard '11
Sports Writers

With Hamilton Athletics leaving the relatively easy-going nature of the Liberty League and entering the UFC ring of the best sports conference in Division III, it's going to take a bold new approach if teams have any chance of competing. Most Hamilton teams routinely get beaten in NESCAC competition. They can let this continue, or they can take a peek into the rebuilding efforts taking place on the men's track team. The program is among those that have seen firsthand the might of the heavyweight conference. Through a system of recruiting, training and a change in attitude that bears a striking parallel to the rise of an NBA franchise, it appears they've finally started to fight back. Led by overseas import Peter Kosgei '10 (the team's Dirk Nowitzki), the team had its most successful NESCAC championship since the Bulls were in office. Even though the squad finished just 9th out of 11 teams on Saturday at Connecticut College, it was in lieu of the absence of Kosgei sidekick Tidelco Ductan '09 and a botched DMR. The women's team also ended their day in the 9th spot, but would have finished higher had it been with its own triple jump star, Akilah Bond '09. The teams showed they only need more depth to compete at this level.

The NESCAC Track and Field Championships hone the most tactically run races of the season. Because many athletes double in events or wish to save their bodies for ECACs and Nationals, some of the mid to long distance races go out extremely slow and end with a "who's got more speed because we really haven't worked that hard yet" kick. Will Reid '10, running his second career 10K, was victimized most by the vexatious whims of the NESCAC runners. Reid led for the first two miles while the projected winners refused to take any action. Finally, when he slowed the pace down to an almost comical jog, the lead changed and the race proceeded in somewhat normal fashion. "We were messing with each other the whole time," Reid said. Despite the drama, Will matched his PR (finishing 8th to score a team point) and walked away a more experienced man/boy.

Luckily for Liz Wahl '10, the sprinting events rely on one thing: speed. Liz ran her best 100m races of the season in the prelims and finals (13.13, 13.19) in a mini-upset of the 5th place spot. Her 200m did not go as well but she still took 7th in 26.96. Meredith Fitzpatrick '11 continued the trend of beating her time each week to run a 4:49 10th place 1500m, just one second off 8th place and ten seconds away from an NCAA provisional qualifying time. Gen Flanders '09 also stayed "trendy" in her 5K, finishing 9th in 19 minutes.

Keith Gross was all senior edge in his 7th place, 9:48 steeplechase outing. He's now just ten seconds off the #1 ranked steeple-chaser in the state. There's one question on everybody's mind: can Gross take State?

While runners continued to circulate the track, James Russell was making history on the infield in the pole vault. After clearing 15'2.5" for a new school record, Russell became the first athlete in NESCAC history to finish first in the same event four years in a row. Oh, and then he jumped 15'6.5" (ranking him 12th in the nation) to set a new NESCAC record and place himself in a position to compete at nationals. In more field success, J.O. Orndorff '11 threw his best shot of the season (13.88m) and finished 3rd. "Big Cat" has also completed his internship/pledging to replace James as field writer for next year. He is currently performing on-the-job training.

After Peter Kosgei's 8th place finish at the Penn Relays on Thursday, it was nice to see him dominating races again on Saturday. Kosgei won the 1500m (3:54) and then became a late entry and early winner in the 800m (1:50). Tired from running three races in three days against some of the best competition in the country? "I felt really good," Kosgei said.

Spike, women: Lauren Peters-Collaer '11 and Laurie Horesta '12 - We've heard the initials "PC" many times this season, but where did Horesta come from? The freshman Jav artist out-threw her PR by 5m to finish 6th in NESACs. PC also set a new personal best by jumping 1.6m, which tied her for 1st place (she lost in a tie breaker). The combination of Horesta and PC should be a devastating field combo in the years to come.

Spike, men: We've gone the whole season and haven't given this award to Fullman? The team's second most successful runner overcame previous injuries to run and jump his way to 2nd place in the 400m hurdles in 55.67. It could be the last race in a tremendous career for the Captain.

W Tennis Ends Season

by Maura Donovan '09
Sports Writer

Every year the spring brings nice weather to the Hill, but not necessarily easy competition to the tennis courts. This spring season was just as hard as the Hamilton Women's Tennis team imagined it would be. Each NESCAC competition proved too challenging for the Continentals. However, several individual Hamilton players shone through the losses and achieved individual victories. Last weekend Hamilton welcomed the Bates College Bobcats from Maine onto the Gray Tennis Courts. Unfortunately, the home advantage was not enough and Bates won the overall competition (7-2). Senior Ashley Pardoe achieved the only singles victory at third flight. She fought throughout the competition and eventually outlasted her opponent (7-5, 6-4). The Continentals also had one win in doubles play, at second flight. Deborah Barany '11 and Amelia Mattern '12 teamed up to easily win the match 8-2. This underclassman team shows great promise for the future. Every other game went to Bates and the Bobcats were able to drive back to Maine with their second NESCAC win this season.

Hamilton's strongest match this season was against Connecticut College last Saturday, April 25. The Continentals fought hard during their travel to New London Connecticut but fell by one point at the end of the day. In the singles matches, Barany easily outplayed her opponent at third flight and swept the second set (6-3, 6-0). Fellow sophomore, Caroline Greenberg also was victorious against the Camels at fourth flight (6-2, 6-3). Laura Brantley '10 and Mattern both won their first sets at second and fifth singles, respectively, but lost in the second and third sets . In doubles play, Barany and Mattern teamed up at second flight to double their opponent's score (8-4). Greenberg and her partner, Maile Thayer '11 then did the exact same at third doubles (8-4). Unfortunately, Pardoe and Brantley were unable to clinch the win at first doubles and lost by one point to the Connecticut team.

The next day, the Continentals returned home to another grueling competition. The Women's Tennis team had the bad luck of finishing out their tough spring season against nationally ranked No. 1 Williams College. At the end of Sunday, the Ephs swept all matches against the Continentals, barely giving up any games within the matches. The closest pairing was at first flight doubles, where Pardoe and Brantley won five games but fell short of the Williams team's eight victories. Pardoe was also recognized on Sunday for her outstanding dedication to the tennis team over the past four years. Pardoe, an Economics major from New York, New York, won 25 singles matches and 35 doubles matches during her career as a Continental. Her leadership helped shape this young team to wins in the fall and set them up to for an improving season next year. The team now looks to outstanding underclassmen such as Brantley and Baraney, both of whom have advanced to the finals of the singles championship competition within the Northeast Regional. Again, next year will continue to be a rebuilding year and hopefully one where returning players can again shine in individual matches.

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SPECTATOR SPORTS

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Men's Lacrosse Season Complete

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAX VAICKUS '12

Frank Holiber '12 (#15) in an attempt to score in a match against Union College.

By Marc Pitarresi '10
Sports Writer

The Hamilton College Men's Lacrosse team lost its final game of the season in a hard-fought contest on the road against perennial Liberty League powerhouse and No. 16 ranked St. Lawrence University last Saturday. The loss leaves the Continentals with a final record 3-10 overall and 1-5 in the Liberty League.

The contest quickly turned into a shootout with the Saints coming out the gates hot, scoring the first two goals of the game. The Continentals were able to maintain their composure and evened the score on the strength of goals scored by Max Akuamoah-Boateng '09 and Andy Simon '09.

The Saints' offensive barrage continued, however, as they scored two more goals in the first quarter and put up the first three tallies of the second quarter to take a commanding 7-2 lead midway through the quarter. Once again, Hamilton was able to dig deep, notching two goals before the end of the quarter. They faced a 8-4 deficit going into the half.

In the second half, the Continentals were searching for an offensive sparkplug and found one in Peter Gerrity '09, who scored twice in each of the final two quarters to keep the game close at 9-6 and 12-8, respectively. Stephen Lefebvre '11 notched the Continentals final tally with 3:20 remaining in the game to bring the final score to 13-9.

Despite the closeness of the game, the Continentals were outperformed in nearly every statistical category, losing 19 of 25 face-offs and getting badly outshot 54-26. A great deal of credit was due to the play of Max Vaickus '12 in net, who made nine saves in the first quarter to keep the game close early and stopped twenty shots overall. Vaickus' performance was recognized when he was named Liberty League Co-rookie of the Week on April 27.

With the win, the Saints cemented their fourth consecutive Liberty League championship and won their thirtieth consecutive Liberty League contest. The loss was the final game for the eight seniors on the Continentals' roster.

Although the season did not go as well as many had hoped, co-captain Franke Holiber '10 believes the team can turn things around next season. "We all wish the season had gone differently, especially for the graduating seniors. It would have been nice to see them go out on top. As for the off-season, a lot of things have to change, and that starts over the summer and going into the fall. We have a lot of potential but we have to work to live up to that potential."

Tennis Loses Last 4

by Daniel Hagemeier '11
Sports Editor

The Hamilton College men's tennis team lost its final four games of the season, all against NESCAC competitors. Coach McKee's team lost at Wesleyan 1-8 and at Connecticut 3-6 and also could not win at home against Bates (0-9) or Williams (0-9). Mike Moreno '11, Drew Libin '12, Mark Segal '09, and the duo Coby Berman '12 and Henry Ciocca '09 were the only players to put points up on the board for the Continentals.

The season for the men's tennis team had already begun when Josh McKee was named the new head coach. He started his job with one win already in the books, an 8-1 victory against Le Moyne in September 2008. However, the little time McKee was left with for the preparation for the 2009 season hindered him from fully preparing his team for the season. His team lost six games straight, including an unlucky 4-5 loss against visiting St. Lawrence and two loses against direct NESCAC rivals. On April 8, the team managed an impressive 9-0 victory at Hobart College, followed by another 9-0 triumph at Rensselaer only two days later. After losing to Amherst College, the Continentals won their first home game 7-2 against Union College on April 14. The mini-series of three wins in four games came to an abrupt halt when the team lost its final four games. The goal of recording at least two NESCAC wins could not be achieved. The team finished with an overall record of 4-11. However, the team lost all of its seven contests against NESCAC rivals.

The team will lose two seniors in Henry Ciocca and Mark Segal who have been starters throughout the season. However, the team set big hopes in returning freshmen Drew Libin and Coby Berman, and Victor Zimmermann. The sophomores, Gregory Kreitzer, Michael Moreno, Daniel Gross and Peter Erwin, should all reach new levels next season as well, and will add to the team competiveness. At the same time, the team will have to step up as a unit and improve in finishing plays and making big points. The competition of the other NESCAC schools will again be intense, and the men's tennis team will have to play its best tennis next season to be able to shape the 2010 season more succesful.

NESCAC Change: The Good, the Bad, and the Money

By Daniel Greenberg '12
Sports Columnist

The change to NESCAC for the remaining seven teams at Hamilton (field hockey, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's lacrosse) still in the Liberty league has been well documented and discussed. The move, though, is not a simple switch, but instead a complex decision that involved the consideration of many issues. "It was an institutional decision," stated Athletic Director and Professor of Physical Education Jon Hind.

One paramount issue that came up in last week's *Spectator* Editorial is money. As written in the editorial, "Hamilton's coaches' salaries are less than half of the median NESCAC coaching budget... Also, Hamilton's sports recruiting budget, $9,712, is less than half of the NESCAC average." Obviously there is a problem in attaining the best for our sports program when the competition has such a fiscal advantage. Hind seemed to echo this concern about the recruiting budget in particular: "We have policies in place that shouldn't allow for these vast discrepancies. I'm happy *The Spectator* dug out those numbers and I'll be glad to bring it up at the next NESCAC meeting." The recruiting budget is based on a system and uses a formula based on numerous factors. According to Jon Hind's formula, other schools (like Amherst, whose budget, according last week's *Spectator* editorial, is $51,093) are grossly over the recruiting budget.

In reference to the coaching budget, there seems to be a misunderstanding about our coaches being underpaid in relation to the rest of NESCAC. "The numbers are right, but they attribute the entire salary towards coaching," responded Hind. "For clarity's sake, a portion of the salaries for professors in physical education are attributed to coaching, while the remainder of the salary is attributed to teaching. Therefore, just reading the numbers from the chart is a bit misleading." Still, the sports' budget seems to be something that needs to be addressed, whether it is about the unjust budgets of other schools or the need for more spending by Hamilton College. Also, it is debatable whether all of the coaches' time should be spent on coaching; according to Jon Hind, "Amherst coaches aren't teachers." Obviously there are benefits with having coaches teach P.E., but it is not clear whether this time could be better spent focusing on coaching.

Also, a chief problem in this move is the leap in competition from the Liberty League to NESCAC. Andrew Menges '12 voiced what he perceived as a dilemma: "Hamilton's teams won't be able to compete at a high level and won't be as successful as whole." There is an evident discrepancy between the quality of teams in the Liberty League and those in the NESCAC, but Jon Hind believes that this is a positive thing – "I'm optimistic we will make the transition smoothly. We won the national championship in women's lacrosse [in the Liberty League]. Women's Lacrosse will be near the top. I don't think [the other teams] will be near the top, but I think recruiting will get better."

After the issue with recruiting budgets gets settled, Hind expects the recruiting classes for the Hamilton teams making the transition will improve: "We'll find out whether the athletes who didn't come here actually decided not to come because we weren't in NESCAC." Also, with the hope that recruiting will get better, many Hamilton athletes, like tennis player Mike Moreno '11, believe that the development of our athletes will also improve by being in the NESCAC – "We play better tennis when we play against better teams."

Travel is another concern, with the schools in the NESCAC being significantly farther away. But Coach of Men's and Women's Squash and Assistant Coach of Men's and Women's Tennis Jamie King believes that this will not be an issue: "There is some travel, but the away games are mostly on weekends. The way the schedules are set up, it shouldn't be a problem."

King also explained the true reason why Hamilton decided to join NESCAC – "It's great for Hamilton. NESCAC is *the* premier athletic conference in the country. It represents the correct balance between academics and athletics where student athletes try to achieve excellence in all aspects of college life."